

# D7 El Faro Initial Position Report



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Search and Rescue Specialist, CGD17

# 011113Z InmarsatPosition Reports

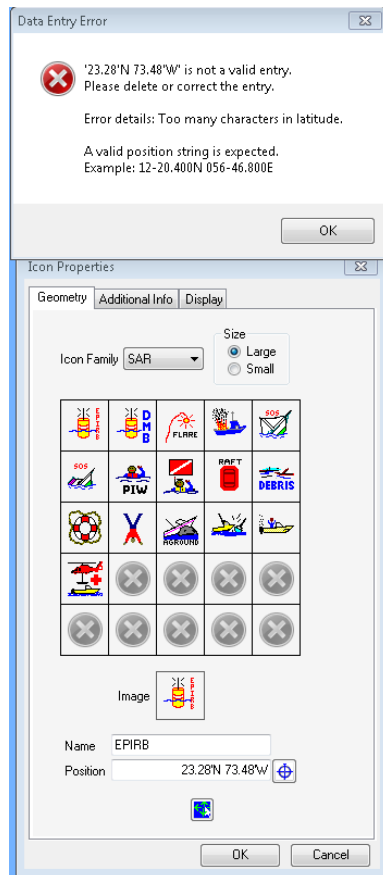
- Command Duty Officer at Atlantic Area Command Center received two reports of distress for the EL FARO that were passed to RCC Miami. The report from Inmarsat C Alert received (01115Z) and CAPT John Lawrence (011124Z), TOTE Security Officer.
- The LANTWATCH email to RCC Miami stated the position information as follows:
  - “We received the below Inmarsat C distress alert from M/V EL FARO in position 23.28N 73.48W for flooding distress.”
  - “The Command Security Officer for the vessel company contacted the vessel and relayed their condition to us, POC John Lawrence, #1 [REDACTED] . 23-26.3N 073-51.6W, 48NM East of San Salvador.”
- Attached to that email was the “Distress Information Sheet” from Marlink.com that showed the following position:
  - 23.28N 73.48W
- SSAS Position received at 011115Z by LANTAREA CC.
  - LAT: 23:25.39N LON: 073:52.51W
- Initial Notification in RCC Miami’s MISLE States: “Initial Notification - D7 received and Inmarsat C alert a SASS alert and an unlocated first alert for the EPIRB registered to EL FARO a 791FT Cargo vessel located 36NM NE Acklins & Crooked Islands, BS. D7 notified OPBAT (Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos) who NTFD (notified) RBDF (Royal Bahamian Defense Forces).”
- OPBAT Notification MILSE Entry: D7 OPBAT of a 791ft US flagged cargo vessel in position 23-16.8N 073-28.8W or 16NM NE of Samana Cay took on water which caused its engines to stop. They dewatered the vessel, but are currently disable and have no power. Vessel is currently working with company to get tow assistance.

# SAROPS Position Conversion

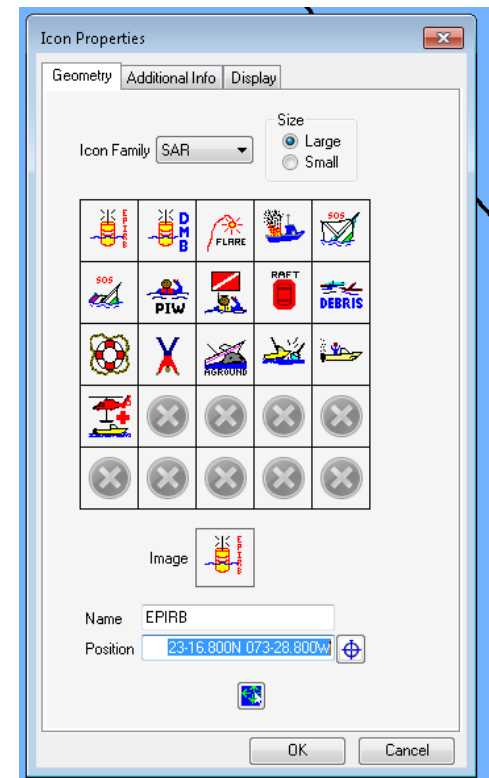
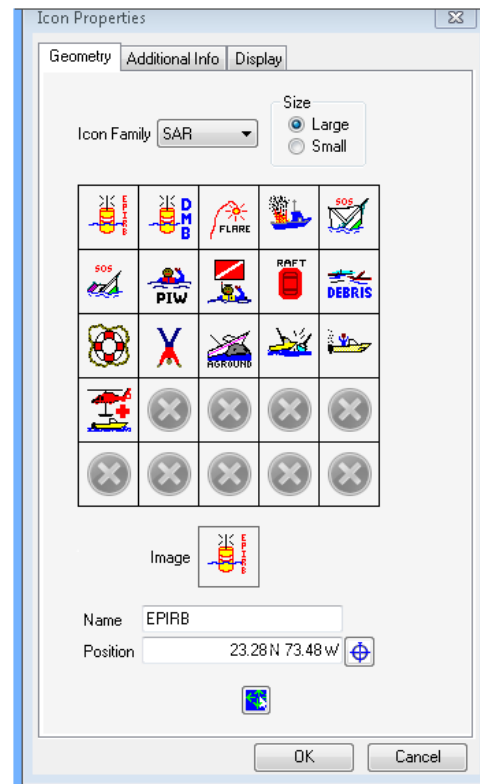
- The USCG Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS) can covert different formats including; DD.DD, DD-MM-SS to DD-MM.mm, which is the standard format recognized for Latitude and Longitude and is preferred for navigation and SAR planning.
- SAROPS cannot convert or display positions as DD.MM' or DD:MM.mm. An error is given stating that there are too many characters. The SAROPS operator must convert those positions manually before entering into SAROPS.
- SAROPS saw the 23.28N 073.48W position as DD.DD vice DD.MM and converted the position to 23-16.8N 073-28.8W.
- Positions available to the Coast Guard for the El Faro LKP were:
  - Inmarsat C Distress Alert Received Message: 23.28'N 73.48'W
  - Inmarsat C Distress Information Sheet: 23.28N 73.48W (Will convert to the incorrect position 23-16.8N 073-28.8W)
  - CAPT Lawrence Report to the Coast Guard: 23-26.3N 073-51.6W
  - SSAS Alert Message: LAT: 23:25.39N LON: 073:52.51W

# Initial Position SAROPS Entry

Unable to Convert DD.MM'N

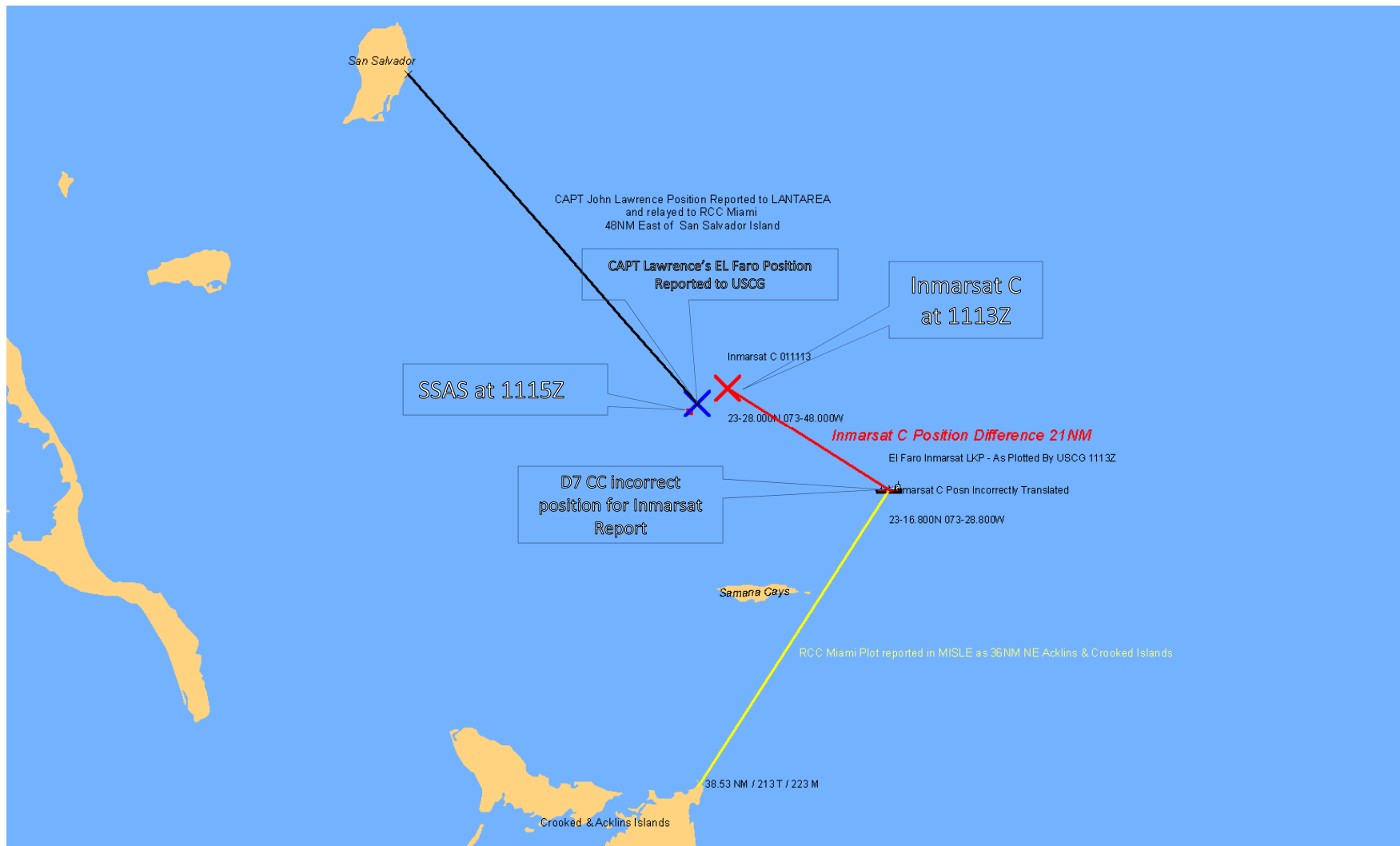


Able to Convert DD.DDN to DD-MM.mmN



*Resulted in D7 CC Watch initially using wrong location for El Faro.*

# Initial Position Report Discrepancies



# USCG MISLE Entries Initial Notification and Notification of OPBAT

| MISLE Activity Id | Start Date/Time     | Unit   | Message/Description   | Location |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------|---|----------|
| 5734211           | 01OCT2015 11:47:41Z | OPBAT  | D7 OPBAT of a 791ft US flagged cargo vessel in position 23-16.8N 073-28.8W or 16NM NE of Samana Cay took on water which caused its engines to stop. They dewatered the vessel, but are currently disable and have no power. Vessel is currently working with company to get tow assistance. |          |
| 5733198           | 01OCT2015 11:58:47Z | D07 dr | Initial Notification - D7 recieved and Inmarsat C alert a SASS alert and an unlocated first alert for the EPIRB regestered to EL FARO a 791FT Cargo vessel located 36NM NE Acklins & Crooked Islands, BS. D7 notified OPBAT who NTFD RBDF.  |          |

Location Details

Description:
36NM NE ACKLINS/CROOKED ISLANDS, BS//LKP of EL FARO TIME 011133Z OCT 15

Location:
Latitude:
23°16.800' N
Longitude:
073°28.800' W
\*
Select Facility...
Select Point...
Retrieve GIS Information

☐ Primary

Distance Offshore:
0 (nautical miles)
Distance Offshore for a land incident should be 0 nautical miles.

GIS Information

Waterway:

District:
Country:

COTP Zone:
Sector:

Area:
State:

River Mile Marker:
☐ International Waters

# Initial SAR Check Sheet and LANT Area Email to RCC Miami

| SEARCH AND RESCUE   |                       |  |   |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|
| Short Title: <u>M/V EL FARO / DISABLED</u>  |                       | Date/Time: <u>01133Z OCT15</u>   |   |
| Watchstander: <u>052</u>  |                       | MISLE: <u>996189</u>   |   |
| INITIAL INFORMATION COLLECTION - AWARENESS Appendix G to COMDTINST M16130.2E  |                       |  |   |
| Radio Call  | Frequency: <u>406</u> | High Site:   | DF Bearing:   |
| Type of Comms: <u>DC/INMC/EPERB</u>   | Original              | Relay: <u>FM: LANT</u>   |   |
| Time: <u>1133Z</u>  | Date: <u>01 OCT15</u> | UCN:   | Initials: <u>[REDACTED]</u>   |
| -- Initial SAR Check Sheet --   |                       |  |   |
| 1. Position <u>23-16.800N</u><br><u>073-26.800W</u><br><u>36 NM NE ACULIN'S &amp; CROOKED ISLANDS</u>   |                       | Type of Position:  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lat/Long<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loran Lines<br><input type="checkbox"/> Geographic Reference |
| 2. Number of Persons On Board   |                       | Adults: <u>25</u>  | Children: Total:  |
| 3. Nature of Distress (if PIW complete additional PIW box below) <u>DISABLED</u>  |                       |  |   |
| 4. Description of Vessel Name: <u>EL FARO</u> Length: <u>791</u> Type: <u>CARGO</u><br>Make: <u>CARGO</u> Color: <u>WHY/BLU</u>   |                       |  |   |
| 5. Have all persons on board the vessel put on Personal Flotation Devices / adequate number of PFD's available? <u>Y/N</u> <u>UNK</u>   |                       |  |   |
| ** ADVISE REPORTING SOURCE OF INTENDED ACTIONS AT THIS TIME **  |                       |  |   |
| 6. Determine Initial Severity / Emergency Phase   |                       |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distress<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dispatch Resources / Activate SAR Alarm<br><input type="checkbox"/> Advise reporting source of Coast Guard's Actions<br><input type="checkbox"/> Issue Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Brief Sector / District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Provide emergency instructions to vessel in distress<br><input type="checkbox"/> Complete additional check-sheets as situation dictates |                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertainty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alert<br>Additional information is needed<br>Complete one or more of the following:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Check-sheet<br><input type="checkbox"/> Overdue Check-sheet<br><input type="checkbox"/> Flare Sighting Check-sheet<br><input type="checkbox"/> MEDEVAC/MEDICO Check-sheet<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grounding Check-sheet<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mass Rescue Operation Supplemental Check-sheet<br><u>DISABLED VSL</u> |   |

B-25

Appendix B: National Standard QRCs

From: [LANTWATCH](#)  
 To: [D07-SMB-CMDCENTER](#)  
 Cc: [LANTWATCH; SAT EIKVAKT \(Marlink\)](#)  
 Subject: Inmarsat C distress: Distress info EL FARO, 48NM East of San Salvador  
 Date: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:32:41 AM  
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)

RCC Miami,

We received the below Inmarsat C distress alert from M/V EL FARO in position 23.28N 73.48W for flooding distress.

MISLE reports it is a 737 foot vessel.

The vessel also activated it's SSAS alarm.

The Command Security Officer for the vessel company contacted the vessel and relayed their condition to us, POC John Lawrence, #1 ([REDACTED])

The vessel is in position 23-26.3N 073-51.6W, 48NM East of San Salador.

A scuttle opened in rough weather and the vessel took on water creating a 15 degree list. They stopped the ingress of water and are not at risk of sinking, but they are without power and engines. They are dewatering the vessel.

Please assume SMC and work with RCC Bahamas to respond and report back on your efforts.

v/r,

LCDR [REDACTED]  
 Command Duty Officer  
 USCG Atlantic Area Command Center

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# Inmarsat C Distress Information Sheet Received by RCC Miami

-----Original Message-----

From: SAT EIKVAKT (Marlink) [mailto: ]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:15 AM  
To: LANTWATCH  
Subject: Distress info

[http://10.107.5.32/rss/images/web/ADS\\_Logo\\_small.png](http://10.107.5.32/rss/images/web/ADS_Logo_small.png)

## DISTRESS INFORMATION SHEET

FROM:

EIK TELEPHONE: FAX: EMAIL:

TO:

NORFOLK

FAX: +

PHONE: +

ALERT DATE: 2015-10-01

ALERT TIME: 11:13:21

TYPE OF ALERT:

INMARSAT

OCEAN REGION:

AORW

ALERT MODE: DISTRESS

POSITION: 23 28N 73 48W

INMARSAT NUMBER:

ANSWERBACK:

FARO

VESSEL NAME:

EL FARO

CALL SIGN:

WFJK

ADDITIONAL INMARSAT NO:

- TELEX  
- TELEX  
TELEX  
TELEX  
TELEX

TECHNICIAN RECEIVING ALERT:

STEINAR JOHANNESSEN

REMARKS:

CASE RESULT (TO BE COMPLETED BY RCC)

TO: EIK EARTH STATION EMAIL:

1. ACTUAL POSITION OF VESSEL:

2. OUTCOME OF CASE (BRIEF SUMMARY):

3. REASON FOR ALERT:

Regards

Operations Engineer

EIK Teleport Norway

Astrium Services – Business Communications Kjoermoveien 180

N-4462 Hovsøerød

Web: [www.astriumservices.com](http://www.astriumservices.com) <<http://www.astriumservices.com/>>

E-mail:

Phone: +

Fax: +



# SSAS Report Received by LANTAREA Not Transmitted to RCC Miami

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
[mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 7:15  
AM  
To: D11-DG-SSAS  
Subject: SSAS ALERT REPORT  
2

--- SSAS ALERT MESSAGE ---

Vessel Name: EL FARO  
MMSI: [REDACTED]  
IMN: [REDACTED]  
LAT: 23:25.39N  
LON: 073:52.51W  
Time: 10/01/2015 11:13:49(UTC)  
COURSE: 214 deg  
SPEED: 04 kt  
Time: 10/01/2015 11:13:49(UTC)

# From CAPT Lawrence's Notes

- [REDACTED]
- Mike Davidson (EL PM)
- Secured source of [REDACTED] (WATER)
- Suttle blown open
- 3 Hold candidate (WATER)
- Post Live
- No Main engine
- Lr 23-26.3 N (FEMALE SPOKE TO MATE)
- Lr 073-51.6 W
- Cor self (RELATIONSHIP TO LAND)
- 48' E of San Selenia
- PUMP OUT HOLD (Thaem)
- List. Wind back (Wind back)

# Enhanced Group Call SAR Messaged Drafted by RCC Miami

**ASTRIUM**  
AN EADS COMPANY

Inmarsat C Enhanced Group Calls Commands

Search and Rescue Coordination - Circular

To: 23N073W150

Ocean Region: Atlantic Ocean West

Priority: (2)Urgent

Cancel Type: Automatic

Repetition Code: (61) Transmit 1 Hour After Initial Broadcast

Alphabet: (A5 (7-bit))

Text File:  
U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL HAS RECEIVED A INMARSAT C DISTRESS ALERT FROM M/V EL FARO IN POSITION 23.28N 73.48W FOR FLOODING DISTRESS, THE CONTAINER VESSEL IS DISABLED APPROXIMATELY 36NM NE OF CROOKED ISLAND, BS. ALL MARINERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN A SHARP LOOKOUT, ASSIST IF POSSIBLE, AND REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS TO U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL VIA TELEPHONE [REDACTED] OR EMAIL [REDACTED] //

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**ASTRIUM**  
AN EADS COMPANY

Inmarsat C Enhanced Group Calls Commands

Search and Rescue Coordination - Circular

To: 23N073W150

Ocean Region: Atlantic Ocean West

Priority: (2)Urgent

Cancel Type: Automatic

Repetition Code: (61) Transmit 1 Hour After Initial Broadcast

Alphabet: (A5 (7-bit))

Text File:  
U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL HAS RECEIVED A INMARSAT C DISTRESS ALERT FROM M/V EL FARO IN POSITION 23.28N 73.48W FOR FLOODING DISTRESS, THE CONTAINER VESSEL IS DISABLED APPROXIMATELY 36NM NE OF CROOKED ISLAND, BS. ALL MARINERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN A SHARP LOOKOUT, ASSIST IF POSSIBLE, AND REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS TO U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL VIA TELEPHONE [REDACTED] OR EMAIL [REDACTED] //

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**ASTRIUM**  
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Inmarsat C Enhanced Group Calls Commands

Search and Rescue Coordination - Circular

To: 23N073W150

Ocean Region: Atlantic Ocean West

Priority: (2)Urgent

Cancel Type: Automatic

Repetition Code: (64) Transmit 4 Hours After Initial Broadcast

Alphabet: (A5 (7-bit))

Text File:  
U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL HAS RECEIVED A INMARSAT C DISTRESS ALERT FROM THE M/V EL FARO IN POSITION 23-16N 073-28W FOR FLOODING DISTRESS AND DISABLED APPROXIMATELY 36NM NE OF CROOKED ISLAND, BS. ALL MARINERS ARE REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN A SHARP LOOKOUT, ASSIST IF POSSIBLE, AND REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS TO U.S. COAST GUARD RCC MIAMI, FL VIA TELEPHONE [REDACTED] OR EMAIL [REDACTED] //

UPDATE  
SENT  
1935Z

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